Ford Opposed to Reopening Probe of JFK Assassination

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Washington — President Ford opposes the reopening of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy on the grounds that no evidence has been produced to discredit the original Warren Commission findings.

White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen made it clear that Ford is not prepared to support a suggestion by Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, R-Pa., a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, that the investigation be reopened.

In response to a question on new reports that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) involved in plotting against the life of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro at the time of the Kennedy assassination, Nessen said the President believed there was "no evidence" the Warren Commission findings were incorrect.

Ford said in April that as a member of the Warren Commission he had helped draft the report. "We said that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin," the President recalled. "We said that the commission had found no evidence of a conspiracy, foreign or domestic."

The Rockefeller Commission reported in June that it found no credible evidence of CIA involvement in the Kennedy assassination.

In other developments, Nessen said that the President's invitation to meet Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn at the White House will still open despite the writer's criticism of Ford.

Solzhenitsyn was quoted Tuesday as charging that Ford would be participating in "the betrayal of Eastern Europe" by attending 35-nation meeting on European security in Helsinki, Finland, next week.

The Nobel Prize winner reportedly said he saw no point in meeting the President in view of Ford's support of the security agreement.

When questioned about the security agreement, which was reached after two years of negotiations, Nessen said the agreement "in no way legally settles the borders in Eastern Europe." It merely obligates the signers not to change borders by force but to make any changes peacefully, Nessen said.

Critics of the agreement, which the Soviet Union has long sought, have charged that it in effect ratifies Soviet domination of Eastern Europe.